

REMARKS

Responsive to the Office Action mailed August 18, 2009, Applicant provides the following. Claims 1-20 have been amended without adding new matter. Thirty (30) claims remain pending in the application: Claims 1-30. Reconsideration of claims 1-30 in view of the amendments above and remarks below is respectfully requested.

Applicant notes that this amendment is timely submitted because the date of submission, Tuesday, January 19, 2010, is the first business day following the day of expiration of the two-month extension of the period for reply, Monday, January 18, 2010.

By way of this amendment, Applicant has made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain any outstanding issues, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned at (949) 932-3181 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible. If the Examiner is unable to reach the undersigned by telephone, the Examiner may contact Marlene Klein at (949) 932-3132.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

1. Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10-15, 17, 18, 20-25, 27, 28 and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,119,931 (Miyamoto et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,961,139 (Kita et al.), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,966,219 (Mori).

Regarding claim 1, in a successive reading operation, plural sets of document sheets are independently fed from an automatic document feeder and are read by the reading unit until a read-end command is input. Furthermore, image data corresponding to the read plural sets of document sheets is stored in the image storage unit as image data corresponding to a series of document sheets. Furthermore, the image data corresponding to the plural sets of documents sheets, which is stored in the image storage unit, is collectively output.

Moreover, the display unit is allowed to display an image corresponding to the read image data in each period after performing each reading operation of plural sets of document sheets and before inputting the read-end command.

By virtue of the above features, the invention of claim 1 makes it possible that a user can conform image data independently feed from the automatic document feeder and read, by controlling the display unit to display the image in each period after performing each reading operation of plural sets of document sheets and before inputting the read-end command.

The high function digital copier of Miyamoto reads, in a period after sheets of originals are read and before time out occurs, next sheets of originals. And then, the high function digital copier produces, based on image data of the read sheets of originals, a file list of the image data.

However, Miyamoto does not teach or suggest enabling the display unit to display the image corresponding to the read image data in each period after performing each reading operation of plural sets of document sheets and before inputting the read-end command.

The high function digital copier of Miyamoto does not display the read sheets of originals, before reading processing is ended.

Moreover, the image-forming apparatus 1 of Kita scans a plurality of documents by the scanner section 12 in response to pushing of a reading start button, and stores images of the plurality of documents as a file in the image memory 14. After that, the image-forming apparatus 1 transmits the image stored as the file to the information-processing apparatus 3, and displays the image on the monitor section 33 of the information-processing apparatus 3.

However, Kita does not teach or suggest enabling the display unit to display the image corresponding to the read image data in each period after performing each reading operation of plural sets of document sheets and before inputting the read-end command. In Kita, the image-forming apparatus 1 does not display read image data, in a period after reading of the plurality of documents is completed and before image data of the plurality of documents is stored as a file in the hard disk 32.

Mori merely teaches that the multi-function peripheral equipment has a display section. In Mori, the multi-function peripheral equipment may display an image corresponding to scanned image data. Therefore, Mori fails to teach or suggest enabling the display unit to display the image corresponding to the read image data in each period after performing each reading operation of plural sets of document sheets and before inputting the read-end command.

If Miyamoto, Kita and Mori, which fail to teach or suggest enabling the display unit to display the image corresponding to the read image data in each period after performing each reading operation of plural sets of document sheets and before inputting the read-end command, are combined, the feature of the present invention previously discussed cannot be conceived from them.

By virtue of the above feature of the present invention which cannot be conceived from the cited references, the present invention makes it possible that a user can conform image data independently feed from the automatic document feeder and read, by controlling the display unit to display the image in each period after performing each reading operation of plural sets of document sheets and before inputting the read-end command.

For at least all the above reasons, Miyamoto, Kita and Mori do not alone, or in combination, teach or suggest at least “a reading unit configured to read a document sheet fed from an automatic document feeder; an image storage unit configured to store image data corresponding to the document sheet read by the reading unit; a display unit configured to display an image corresponding to the image data stored in the image storage unit; a reading control unit configured to perform a successive reading operation, wherein, in the successive reading operation, plural sets of document sheets are independently fed from the automatic document feeder and read by the reading unit until a read-end command is input, and image data corresponding to the read plural sets of document sheets is stored in the image storage unit as image data corresponding to a series of document sheets; an image outputting unit configured to collectively output the image data corresponding to the plural sets of document sheets stored in the image storage unit; and a control unit

configured to enable the display unit to display an image corresponding to the read image data in each period after performing each reading operation of plural sets of document sheets and before inputting the read-end command,” as recited in claim 1. Thus, Miyamoto, Kita and Mori do not render claim 1 obvious.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits the rejection of claim 1, and any claims dependent thereon, is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Independent claim 11 recites substantially similar limitations as discussed above with respect to claim 1; thus the arguments above regarding claim 1 are also applicable to claim 11. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1 and 11, and any claims dependent thereon, is overcome and should be withdrawn. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-30 is overcome and should be withdrawn.

2. Claims 6, 9, 16, 19, 26 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyamoto, Kita and Mori, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,212,307 (Kanda).

Claims 6 and 9, and claims 16, 19, 26 and 29 depend on claims 1 and 11, respectively, which have been shown above not to be rendered obvious by Miyamoto, Kita and Mori. Kanda provides no further teaching regarding the invention as recited in independent claims 1 and 11. Therefore, the proposed combination of Miyamoto, Kita, Mori and Kanda does not render obvious the invention recited in claims 1 or 11. Thus, at least by virtue of their dependency on claims 1 and 11, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 6, 9, 16, 19, 26 and 29 is overcome and should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims pending in the application meet the requirements for patentability and respectfully requests that the Examiner indicate the allowance of such claims.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this response which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account Number 502456.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner may contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

January 19, 2010

/casey r. huffmire/

Date

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